

Appln No. 10/590,639
Amdt date May 13, 2011
Reply to Office action of January 13, 2011

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on January 13, 2011. Claims 12-20 have been canceled. Claims 21-30 have been added and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 21-30 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 12-20 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mabuchi, U.S. Patent No. 5,257,058. The Examiner also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mabuchi, in further view of Ushiro, U.S. Patent No. 4,404,595.

Mabuchi relates to a power supply system adapted for use in an imaging equipment of a video camera system and commercially available interchangeable lenses for single lens reflex cameras for using the interchangeable lenses for single lens reflex cameras also for the video camera system. For this reason a conversion adapter is required for:

- matching between the lens mount in the interchangeable lens system of the video camera with that of the lens system of the still camera;
- compensating the difference in the optical path length from the lens mount to the image plane, between the video camera and the still camera; and
- matching the communication format, data format and/or control protocol in the control data transfer, between the interchangeable lens system for the video camera and that for the still camera.

According to FIG. 1 and the description in column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 25, of Mabuchi:

the video camera body 301 constitutes a first control device; the interchangeable lens for a still camera 101 constitutes a second control device; a conversion adapter 201 for mounting the interchangeable lens for a single lens reflex camera on the video camera body 301; and an external battery 401 is connected to the conversion adapter 201. The video camera body 301 and the conversion adapter 201 are mechanically coupled by an unrepresented mount, and are also electrically connected by a bidirectional communication line 601 for sending various control information for controlling the lens 101, from the video camera body to the conversion adapter 201, and also for receiving, from the conversion adapter 201, a status signal indicating the function status of the lens and sent from the lens.

Similarly the conversion adapter 201 and the still camera lens 101 are mechanically connected by an unrepresented mount and also electrically connected by a bidirectional communication line 501, whereby the control information from the camera body and the status signal from the lens are exchanged in bidirectional communication through the conversion adapter.

As can be seen from the above description and as shown in FIG. 2 of Mabuchi the interchangeable lens includes a focus encoder, a zoom encoder and an iris encoder as well as driving units consisting of motors and driving circuits for driving the focus lens, zoom lens and iris which are controlled by a microcomputer which controls the entire lens according to the control information sent from the camera body through the conversion adapter and the communication line. Furthermore, the function states of the focusing lens, zoom lens and iris are respectively detected by the focus encoder, zoom encoder and iris encoder, then fetched by the

Appln No. 10/590,639
Amdt date May 13, 2011
Reply to Office action of January 13, 2011

microcomputer of the lens for necessary processing, and transmitted through the communication line to the conversion adapter and then to the camera body.

Thus, the interchangeable lens according to Mabuchi comprises sensor means for detecting the focus, zoom and iris status as well as drive means for controlling the focus, zoom and iris of the interchangeable lens by means of the lens microcomputer according to the signals supplied to and received from the camera microcomputer through communication lines 501a and 601a, whereby the signals are converted and adapted by means of the adapter microcomputer which is connected to the lens microcomputer via communication line 501a and the camera microcomputer via communication line 601a.

The adapter microcomputer of Mabuchi, however, does not include a data memory which stores optics-related data of the camera lens. Rather, Mabuchi uses bidirectional communication to exchange control information from the camera body and status signals from the lens (column 4, lines 20 – 23 of Mabuchi).

Claim 21 of the present invention, however, is directed to a movie camera assembly comprising "a camera lens with a non-standardized lens fastening means, without integrated data memories and without a standardized electric interface to be inserted into a control system."

To overcome this drawback in a control system for automatically setting values of a camera lens with a non-standardized lens fastening means, without integrated data memories and without a standardized electric interface to be inserted into the control system, the movie camera having a camera housing with a lens mount and a device for acquiring data relating to the camera lens connected to the lens mount the present invention provides "an intermediate flange for connecting the camera lens to said lens mount of the movie camera; said intermediate flange comprising an electronic system which stores optics-related data of the camera lens; said intermediate flange being connected to the camera lens on one side and to the lens mount of the movie camera on the other side; said intermediate flange having a contact region, which is aligned with a contact region arranged in the lens mount of the movie camera for reading out

Appln No. 10/590,639
Amdt date May 13, 2011
Reply to Office action of January 13, 2011

said optics-related data of the camera lens by a control system for camera lenses integrated in the movie camera or an external control system for camera lenses."

Neither a camera lens without a standardized lens fastening means, integrated data memories and standardized electric interface, nor the solution for connecting such a camera lens to a movie camera with integrated lens control means appears to be disclosed or suggested by Mabuchi. Thus, applicant submits that claim 21 is not anticipated by Mabuchi. Claims 22-30 are all directly or indirectly dependent from claim 21. As such, applicant submits that these claims are also not anticipated by Mabuchi for the same reasons that Mabuchi does not anticipate claim 21 obvious, and for the additional limitations that claims 22-30 contain therein. Ushiro does not make up for the deficiencies of Mabuchi in rendering claim 21 obvious. Thus, the combination of Mabuchi and Ushiro also does not render claims 22-30 obvious for the same reasons that Mabuchi in view of Ushiro does not render claim 21 obvious, and for the additional limitations that claims 22-30 contain therein.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

Constantine Marantidis
Reg. No. 39,759
626/795-9900

CM/mml

MML PAS953204.1-*05/13/11 11:17 AM